

**REMARKS**

Applicants appreciate the consideration of the present application afforded by the Examiner. Claims 28, 29, 49, 50, 53, 54, 63, 64, and 66 were pending prior to the Office Action and remain pending. Claims 50 and 53 have been amended through this Reply. Claims 49 and 63 are independent. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants appreciate that claims 28, 29, 49, 53, 54, 63, 64, and 66 are indicated to be allowed.

Applicants further appreciate that claim 50 is indicated to define allowable subject matter. To expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 50 to address the Examiner's rejection of claim 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have also amended the preambles of claims 50 and 53 to better conform to U.S. practice. Applicants submit that the amendments address the Examiner's rejection under § 112 or are non-substantive in nature, and therefore do not raise any new issues requiring further consideration by the Examiner.

***35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> Paragraph Rejection***

Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's assertion of indefiniteness, Applicants have amended claim 50 to include, *inter alia*, "*recording the processing instructed to each laboratory server by transmitting the instruction information, and managing at least one of a transaction occurring between the photo finishing laboratories and[[or]]a transaction occurring between the center server and each photo finishing laboratory, based on the record*" in order to expedite prosecution.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection of claim 50 be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSION**

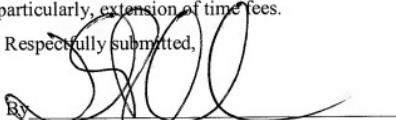
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

Should there by any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John R. Sanders, Reg. No. 60,166 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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